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LINDA E. HASTINGS

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Attorney Docket No.: NEKA 18.612 (100806-00199)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Yoshihisa MATSUBARA et al.  
Serial No.: 09/840,386  
Filed: April 23, 2001  
Title: **METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING SEMICONDUCTOR  
DEVICE, AND PROCESSING SYSTEM AND  
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE**  
Examiner: Lan Vinh  
Group Art Unit: 1765

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

S I R:

In response to the Office Action mailed on January 21, 2004, the period for responding thereto having been set to expire after April 21, 2004, the period for response not being extended for more than one month, please consider the following remarks: